

## A clean environment is important to all of us!

Did you know that storm drains are NOT connected to sanitary sewer systems and treatment plants? The primary purpose of storm drains is to carry rainwater away from developed areas to prevent flooding. Untreated storm water and the pollutants it carries, flow directly into local waterways and the ocean.

In recent years, sources of water pollution like industrial waters from factories have been greatly reduced. However, now the majority of water pollution occurs from things like cars leaking oil, fertilizers from farms, lawns and gardens, failing septic tanks, pet waste and residential car washing.

All these sources add up to a pollution problem! But each of us can do small things to help clean up our water clean, and that adds up to a pollution solution!



Motor oil photo is used courtesy of the Water Quality Consortium, a cooperative venture between the Washington State Department of Ecology, King County and the cities of Bellevue, Seattle and Tacoma.



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Public Works Department  
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Storm Water HOTline:  
1-888-CleanLA

Website: [www.citymy.info](http://www.citymy.info)



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## Motor Oil

Catch it Before the Catch Basin!



City of Manhattan Beach  
Storm Water Protection  
Program

Storm Water HOTline:  
1-888-CleanLA

## What's the problem with motor oil?

Oil does not dissolve in water. It lasts a long time and sticks to everything from beach sand to bird feathers. Oil and other petroleum products are toxic to people, wildlife and plants.

One pint of oil can make a slick larger than a football field. Oil that leaks from our cars onto roads and driveways is washed into storm drains, and then usually flows directly to the ocean.

Used motor oil is the largest single source of oil pollution in our ocean and waterways. Americans spill 180 million gallons of used oil each year into our waters. This is **16 times** the amount spilled by the Exxon Valdez in Alaska.



## How can YOU help keep our environment clean?

Having a clean environment is of primary importance for our health and economy. Clean waterways provide commercial opportunities, recreation, fish habitat and add beauty to our landscape. YOU can help keep our ocean and waterways clean by applying the following tips:

- Stop drips. Check for oil leaks regularly and fix them promptly. Keep your car tuned to reduce oil use.
- Use ground cloths or drip pans beneath your vehicle if you have leaks or are doing engine work.
- Clean up spills immediately. Collect all used oil in containers with tight fitting lids. Do not mix different engine fluids.
- When you change your oil,



dispose of it properly. Never dispose of oil or other engine fluids down the storm drain, on the ground or into a ditch.

- Recycle used motor oil. There are several locations in Manhattan Beach that accept used motor oil. For a listing of facilities visit the California Integrated Waste Management Board website at:

[www.ciwmb.ca.gov/UsedOil/CrtCntrs.asp](http://www.ciwmb.ca.gov/UsedOil/CrtCntrs.asp)

- Buy recycled ("re-refined") motor oil to use in your car.